

To: Daly, Eric[Daly.Eric@epa.gov]
From: Benton, Tim
Sent: Mon 1/16/2017 1:08:56 PM
Subject: RE: NFB: Path Forward for RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416/Weston Task List
Subcontractor Performance Evaluation -General.pdf

Eric,

The attached is the Weston Subcontractor Evaluation Form. This form is more geared toward construction field activities but hits most of the aspects for an evaluation of a laboratory subcontractor. This form is outdated as all subcontractor evaluations these days are completed through an online Weston system (SubTrack) that only Weston employees have access to. If you would prefer to just provide me with your input I would ensure that it gets posted to our internal system.

Thanks,

Tim

From: Daly, Eric [mailto:Daly.Eric@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 5:55 PM
To: Benton, Tim
Cc: Croskey, Robert; Conway, R. Chad; Nwosu, Bernard; Lang, Michael; Pellegrino, Carl; Lisichenko, Peter; Nguyen, Lyndsey
Subject: RE: NFB: Path Forward for RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416/Weston Task List

You are right that the request was not to ship until after the new year. That was my request. January 4th. So if I was asked to ship something December 15th to arrive on January 4th, I would have the samples ready to ship the latest...um January 4th? To hear we will ship it out on January 20th is mind boggling. To hear a few days ago that they would START the process is concerning. Then here we are days after that we are confirming shipping address and they are now going to expedite it so it is sooner than January 20th? Please oh please tell me there is a subcontractor evaluation form.

From: Benton, Tim [<mailto:Tim.Benton@WestonSolutions.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 5:32 PM
To: Daly, Eric <Daly.Eric@epa.gov>
Cc: Croskey, Robert <Robert.Croskey@WestonSolutions.com>; R. Conway <R.Conway@WestonSolutions.com>; Nwosu, Bernard <Ben.Nwosu@WestonSolutions.com>; Lang, Michael <Michael.Lang@WestonSolutions.com>; Pellegrino, Carl <Pellegrino.Carl@epa.gov>; Lisichenko, Peter <lisichenko.peter@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Lyndsey <Nguyen.Lyndsey@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: NFB: Path Forward for RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416/Weston Task List

Eric,

I share your frustration and agree about finding alternative laboratory services once we move past this phase of the project. As a reminder, Pete specifically requested that the laboratory not ship the samples back until the new year but that is no excuse for why it will take them almost three weeks into the new year to get them returned! In the interim we will begin the search for alternative laboratories that we can tap into moving forward! I apologize about all of the headaches associated with the laboratory services as there is enough for all of us to deal with without these types of issues continually coming up!

Tim

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 13, 2017, at 5:21 PM, Daly, Eric <Daly.Eric@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Tim. You know, they shipped the empty plastic jars to this address? I'm fairly sure Pete gave them this address last month when this task was requested. I think we all are trying to be patient and not assume things but it really appears to be passive aggressive behavior from this lab. We ask them to ship the samples but instead they spend the next day conducting their own studies to continue and to try and prove they didn't remove the contaminated slag during sample prep. They do that but then don't send the samples back? It is a month and they are asking for the address now? Very curious. I have spoken to my team and we want to finish up what we are doing with this lab. However, I would like to investigate a new lab once we start any new slag excavation at NFB, HTC or 738 UMR. Ben, can you remind me why we left TestAmerica? I believe it was more than just price.

The Address is Niagara Falls Boulevard Site; Attention Weston, 9626
Niagara Falls Boulevard, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Attached is a revised Weston Task list. A new section has been added since the one sent out on Jan 5th. This section is for our tree survey/sampling activities. Please let me know on Tuesday where we are with the tasks. Carl will be on-site and I will be in the Edison Office. Thanks

Thanks

From: Benton, Tim [<mailto:Tim.Benton@WestonSolutions.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 5:04 PM
To: Daly, Eric <Daly.Eric@epa.gov>; Croskey, Robert <Robert.Croskey@WestonSolutions.com>; R. Conway <R.Conway@WestonSolutions.com>
Subject: FW: Path Forward for RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416

Eric,

Please find below the response from Pace in regards to the shipping of the samples back to the NFB Site. Still not exactly sure why this much time is needed to ship the samples back but atleast they have moved up the date in which we can expect the samples to return to the Site.

Chad/Rob,

Please provide the shipping address to have them send the samples back to.

Thanks,

Tim

From: Carin Ferris [<mailto:Carin.Ferris@pacelabs.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Richard Kinney; Benton, Tim
Cc: Sumbaly, Smita
Subject: RE: Path Forward for RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416

Hi Tim and Smita

We should have the samples returned no later than Wednesday next week. Can you please verify the address for the return sample shipment?

thanks

Carin

>>> Richard Kinney 1/13/2017 1:01 PM >>>

Carin can answer the question regarding the shipping information.

I had offered 1/20 as a latest shipping date. At the time of responding, I wasn't aware of the level of effort to retrieve the samples for return. Carin and I will discuss the specifics of this today and send you an updated schedule for delivery. We'll make every effort to return the samples as soon as possible.

Richard

>>> "Benton, Tim" <Tim.Benton@WestonSolutions.com> 1/11/2017 7:04 AM >>>

Richard/Carin,

Thank you for following up and confirming the direction that the client has requested for these three current RFPs. The only remaining question that I have for you guys is why it will take potentially until January 20, 2017 to ship the requested samples back to the Site? If you could please provide a response it would be much appreciated! Also, please let me know if you need the shipping address information for getting the samples back to the Site or if that had already been provided by Pete Lisichenko.

Thanks,

Tim

From: Richard Kinney [<mailto:Richard.Kinney@pacelabs.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Carin Ferris; Benton, Tim
Cc: Sumbaly, Smita
Subject: RE: Path Forward for RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416

Tim:

I apologize for the delay in responding.

Our comments are as follows:

General Comments

1. Yes, we will ensure that the listed analytes are included for samples associated with projects for RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416.

2. Future Chain of Custody Records

2. a. This is a fairly atypical process for our lab and so, we don't have a test code for this process. It is sufficient for us that you include a descriptive reference such as, "Analyze for Gamma-Spec as-received in the provided sample container prior to processing for chemical testing."

b. We will abide by this requirement. The entirety of sample received will be processed for chemical analysis following analysis for gamma-spectroscopy on the "as-received" basis.

RFP-Specific Comments:

1. NFB Site - Area 1, 5 and 7 Soil Samples (Under RFP No. 403)

b. We will ensure that the referenced samples are shipped from Pace by no later than 1/20/17.

2. NFB Site - Low-level Concentration Samples and the Post Excavation Samples from Area 5 (Under RFP No. 403)

a. We received these referenced samples.

b. 1-4 We analyzed the samples for gamma-spec as-received in the sample containers. A narrative was written into the project reports specifying that the results should be considered as estimated due to differences between the sample containers and calibration geometry. The reports were sent to Smita today.

b 5-8 The samples have not been processed yet. We will abide by these requirements.

3. HTC Site (Under RFP No. 391) - Analysis was on Hold/Please Analyze

a-c We will abide by these requirements. The entire dried sample will be processed and analyzed as specified. No materials will be removed prior to analysis.

4. 738 UMR Site (Under RFP No. 416) - Analysis was on Hold/Please Analyze

a-b We will abide by these requirements. The sample jars labeled as "Gamma Spec Modified" will be analyzed for gamma-spec in the received containers. Subsequently, the contents of each sample jar labeled as "Gamma Spec Modified" will be dried and processed. No materials will be removed prior to analysis. From the processed sample, a gamma container for 21-day ingrowth gamma-spec will be prepared. Portions of the processed sample will be analyzed for alpha-spec parameters.

We will abide by the requirements specified in this E-Mail. If you have questions or need clarification on any point, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard

Richard M. Kinney
Radiochemistry Lab Operations Manager
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>>> "Benton, Tim" <Tim.Benton@WestonSolutions.com> 1/9/2017 2:49 PM >>>

Carin/Richard,

I would appreciate a response to the email below prior to the end of the day if at all possible.

Thanks,

Tim

From: Benton, Tim
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 4:50 PM
To: Carin.Ferris@pacelabs.com; Richard.Kinney@pacelabs.com

Cc: Lisichenko, Peter; Benton, Tim; Conway, R. Chad; Croskey, Robert; Nguyen, Lyndsey; Sumbaly, Smita; Nwosu, Bernard; Kappelman, David; Pellegrino, Carl;
Justin.Hensley@pacelabs.com

Subject: Path Forward for RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416

Importance: High

Carin/Richard,

Weston, in consultation with our client, wanted to confirm our path forward with all samples to be analyzed under RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416. This summary is based on the conference call conducted on December 14, 2016.

General Comments

1. Additional Radionuclides Added to Library

a.) On November 17, 2016, Weston requested, through Richard Kinney, to add **Th-228, Th-234, Pa-234m** to the gamma spec library. Richard confirmed via email that day but please verify this is going to be part of the data packages moving forward for all samples associated with RFP Nos. 391, 403, and 416.

2. Future Chain of Custody Records

a.) We need to establish a uniformed naming convention that we apply to the requested analysis field on all COCs moving forward. The most recent samples submitted were listed on the COC as "run gamma spec first before sample prep as per phone conference". We would like for a more conventional analysis name to be created for these RFPs so that everyone on the laboratory end knows that these samples need to be handled differently than the normal procedures call for. **Please provide the requested analysis name that you can ensure will be communicated to all of your laboratory personnel and we will use that moving forward for all of our COCs.**

b.) We will also be listing the sample matrix moving forward to "Soil/Rock/Slag" to re-emphasize the point that the entire sample should be analyzed and no sieving of the course

material is to be conducted.

RFP-Specific Comments:

1. NFB Site - Area 1, 5 and 7 Soil Samples (Under RFP No. 403)

- a.) These are the sample results we received in November 2016 and were the reason the conference call was conducted on December 14, 2016.
- b.) Weston requested that these samples be shipped back to the NFB Site once we got into 2017. We will provide the appropriate shipping address once we receive a response back in terms of when these samples are planned to be shipped out. The sooner the better to get this action item completed. **Please provide a shipping date as soon as possible.**

2. NFB Site - Low-level Concentration Samples and the Post Excavation Samples from Area 5 (Under RFP No. 403)

- a.) We shipped out the low-level concentration samples and the post excavation samples from Area 5 on December 21, 2016.
- b.) The following procedures should be performed for all of these samples:
 - 1.) There should only be (1) 16 ounce Jar for each sample now.
 - 2.) We are requesting that the laboratory run **our jar** for gamma spec initially prior to any sample preparation.
 - 3.) Chain of Custody reads "Run Gamma Spec prior to sample preparation. Per our Conference Call".
 - 4.) We understand that the geometry is slightly different from our jar to Pace jar. In the future, we will be using Pace jars provided.
 - 5.) The entire contents of that container will then be pulverized and homogenized.

6.) **No rocks should be removed.** We do not see the reason for the material going through a sieve. It may be part of the laboratory procedure but it does not appear to serve a purpose for our needs. As discussed on the December 14, 2016 conference call, by removing the rock/slag it does not represent our sample matrix properly. If the material is pulverized and homogenized, that should be sufficient.

7.) From that jar, appropriate sample amount should be transferred to another container for 21 day in-growth and then gamma spec. analysis.

8.) Finally, the alpha spec aliquot will be taken from this pulverized jar content for analysis.

3. HTC Site (Under RFP No. 391) - Analysis was on Hold/Please Analyze

a.) We put the analysis on hold due to the issues we were having.

b.) According to Richard Kinney, the three HTC sample jars were mixed and dried already.

c.) The following procedures should be performed for all of these samples:

1.) The samples should be pulverized but not put through a sieve and no rock removed when homogenizing the sample.

2.) Then sample amounts can be obtained for 21 day in-growth gamma spec and alpha spec. analyses.

3.) We will not have analysis that will be comparable to our HpGe results since three jars have been combined already.

4. 738 UMR Site (Under RFP No. 416) - Analysis was on Hold/Please Analyze

a.) We put the analysis on hold due to the issues we were having.

b.) The following procedures should be performed for all of these samples:

1.) The samples should be run from **our jar** labeled "Gamma Spec Modified" for gamma spec initially prior to any sample preparation.

- 2.) The one jar labeled "Gamma Spec Modified" must be used for the analysis if there is enough material. This will be somewhat comparable to our HpGe results.
- 3.) The entire contents of that container will then be pulverized and homogenized.
- 4.) **No rocks should be removed.** We do not see the reason for the material going through a sieve. It may be part of the laboratory procedure but it does not appear to serve a purpose for our needs. As discussed on the December 14, 2016 conference call, by removing the rock/slag it does not represent our sample matrix properly. If the material is pulverized and homogenized, that should be sufficient.
- 5.) From that jar, appropriate sample amount should be transfer to another container for 21 day in-growth and then gamma spec. analyses.
- 6.) Finally, the alpha spec aliquot will be taken from this pulverized jar content for analysis.

I know that there is a lot of information contained within this summary but it is important that we are all on the same page as we move forward with these projects. Weston appreciates Pace's continued support of these high-profile projects and the willingness to work with us to meet all of our client's needs! If you could please provide the answers to the questions posed above and also confirm, via mail, that the direction forward is clearly understood it would be much appreciated! If there any questions or concerns please let me know.

Thanks,

Timothy Benton, CHMM

RST 3 Operations Lead/

Deputy Program Manager

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<Weston Task List NFB-HTC -738 UMR Steelworks 01-13-2017.pdf>

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